

CHAPTER 9

A BLIND SPOT







YES?

GATASHI











IF IT WASN'T  
FOR THAT  
INTRUDER

EVERYONE IN  
TOWN WOULD  
HAVE JOINED  
IN.

I WAS  
SURPRISED  
YOU HAD LEFT  
THE HOUSE TO  
JOIN THE  
FUNERAL  
PROCESSION.



AS A RESULT  
OF THAT  
DECISION.

I'M NOT  
SURE  
WHAT WILL  
HAPPEN.

ONE FINE  
SPRING,  
BECAUSE OF  
MR. KOGANEI

KOGANEI-SAMA  
WAS ABOUT TO  
HAVE BEEN  
SACRIFICED TO  
THE MOUNTAIN.













LOOK  
DOWN

THE ENLIGHTENED  
ONE'S SOUL  
RESTS HERE. THE  
STAFF STANDS  
TALL TO WATCH  
OVER US.

THIS  
IS HIS  
STAFF.



IT'S A  
GOOD  
VIEW OF  
OUR  
LAND.



THE  
ENLIGHTENED  
ONE AND THE  
GOD OF THE  
NORTH WATCH  
OVER US ALL.

I CAN SEE  
THE GOD  
OF THE  
NORTH!

I CAN  
SEE MY  
MOUNTAIN!





THESE DOORS  
WILL NOT OPEN  
TILL THE ARRIVAL  
OF THE NEXT  
ENLIGHTENED ONE

MAY THERE BE  
ANY MORE  
FROM YOUR  
VILLAGE



IT'S  
COMING  
FROM  
UNDER-  
GROUND

...



Is that a  
manga?

Or  
more?

It seems  
like



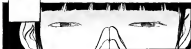
It's coming  
from under-  
ground—





While  
everyone  
prayed with  
their eyes  
shut,

I peeked a  
little.



And it  
ends  
here?

Everyone  
works so  
hard while  
living here,



Near the  
God of  
the  
North?

Is the grave  
of that "Mr.  
Ayumu" up  
there?

So  
high...and  
far...



Come up  
and down  
again,

when  
you're  
lost, I  
won't?



AH...



**It's that  
child!!**

SEE FLAP FLAP



the other  
side of the  
mountain!

IT'S GONE  
TO...







Group kids running

Everything's been run to me

Just what's going on?

THAT CHILD

BUT WHY  
HAS,

ALLOWED TO  
CROSS THE  
MOUNTAIN?



THAT  
CHILD

MAYBE,



Don't be a  
bad girl  
now.

The Four  
Gods are  
watching  
us.



Is flying in  
the Gods'  
blind spot?



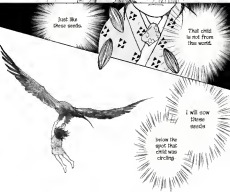


The old  
used that

To travel back  
and forth  
between the  
Worlds.

Yes

That  
makes  
sense.



Just like  
these seeds.

That child  
is not from  
this world.

I will sow  
these  
seeds

below the  
spot that  
child was  
circling

I'LL SHOW  
THESE  
SEEDS

I WON'T TELL  
ANYONE WHERE

NOT EVEN  
MY FATHER

WE  
WANT AN  
ARMY—  
NOT MORE

THE  
VILLAGE  
CHIEF'S  
DAUGHTER  
SHOULD  
BE MARRIED  
TO THE  
SON  
OF THE  
VILLAGE







I'll remember by  
use the Tower of  
the Ringwood  
to tell where I  
was

I'm back in the  
shadow of the  
Tree, hidden  
from the God  
of the North



Here,  
right?



AS I STOOD IN  
THE SUNLIGHT,

I FELT A STRANGE  
FEELING SPREADING  
THROUGH ME.

A SENSE THAT  
FATE WOULD  
CHANGE.

